



# NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**

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## **“Christmas in the Adobes” Offers Unique View of Monterey’s Historic Adobes**

Nineteen of Monterey’s historic buildings will be lit by candlelight as part of the twenty-first annual “Christmas in the Adobes” celebration, December 9 and 11, 5 to 9 p.m. Along with the hundreds of candlelights, called “luminarias,” there will be a variety of musical entertainment, foods, and decorations to get everyone in the holiday spirit.

One of the highlights this year will be the newly re-opened Stevenson House. Guests will see a vast collection of Robert Louis Stevenson memorabilia, and learn why this 29-year-old writer stayed in Monterey during the fall of 1879.

This is the only time of the year that many of these nineteenth century buildings are open to the public and open in the evening. The 1836 adobe, Casa Abrego, is a welcome addition to this year’s event. Most of the historic buildings are in close proximity to each other so that visitors are able to walk, using a self-guided brochure, to any or all of the historic houses. Informed volunteers, docents and staff will be on hand to tell about the unique aspects of the buildings and share stories of their former occupants.

The entertainment and decorations match the history of the building. The Custom House, California’s oldest public building, will be the site of a fandango because these lively Spanish dances were actually held in this same building as far back as 1827, when it was built. Casa Soberanes, a home that typifies the Mexican era, will offer musical entertainment from the 1840s, as well as Mexican hot chocolate. For those wanting to know more about the life of John Steinbeck, the Lara-Soto Adobe is the place to see.

Other historic buildings include: the Larkin House with musician Robert McNamara; the Monterey Museum of Art, Monterey County’s premier cultural centers; Old Whaling Station; Casa Serrano; Casa Amesti; Cooper-Molera Adobe and Diaz Adobe; Casa Gutierrez with the Thomas Kinkade Museum and Cultural Center; Monterey Hotel; Colton Hall, one of the more popular sites; California’s First Theatre; Mayo Hayes O’Donnell Library; Pacific House Museum.

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For holiday shopping, you will find many items to choose from at the Cooper-Museum Store and the J. Boston Store and Picket Fence stores. For those seeking Santa, you'll find him and Mrs. Claus at the House of the Four Winds.

Christmas in the Adobes is sponsored by California State Parks in association with Old Monterey Preservation Society. Ticket prices are \$15 for adults (18 years and older). Children's tickets (6-17 years old) are \$2. Tickets are limited. Free parking is included with your ticket. Thursday night is encouraged because of smaller crowds.

**For more information call (831) 647-6226 or (831) 649-7118.**

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